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Fort Worth Star-Telegram (Fort Worth, Texas) · Thu, Sep 27, 2001 · Page 34
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Arson suspected in Arlington fire

STAR-TELEGRAM

ARLINGTON — Just when firefighters thought they had the fire under control, flames burst through the roof and consumed an abandoned 2-story hotel Wednesday in east Arlington.

Fifteen fire crews battled the blaze for more than three hours in a building that was once part of the Flagship Inn at 501 E. Avenue H. The hotel's Crystal Ballroom was once a prominent Arlington social hot spot.

No one was injured in the fire, which started about 1:30 p.m. A cause has not been determined, but fire investigators suspect arson. It is the second suspicious fire in seven years at the 39-year-old hotel just east of Texas 360.

The hotel, vacant since 1998, is owned by Heaven on Earth Inns and its owner, Maharishi Mahesh Yogi. The transcendental meditation leader was once known as the guru to the Beatles.

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Jan 10, 2025

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